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KLIPSUN

RISE | WINTER 2013

On Ice
Experiencing the ultimate thrill sport

Takedowns, Strikes and Submissions
Life behind the gloves

Earth Rise
Rediscovering our home planet

DEAR READER,

Photo by ***Brooke Warren***

Time to come clean. I'm afraid of flying. Unfortunately, I didn't know this until the airplane I was on started taxiing down the runway, preparing to take me and my family to the happiest place on Earth: Disneyland.

Heights are fine. I love to climb mountains, hike narrow cliffside trails, ride the glass elevators at the Space Needle and jump off unstable ledges into the lakes of Eastern Washington, but there is something about being unable to control my own rise and fall that gives me the willies.

What you are about to read chronicles stronger people than I. We found people who put their lives at risk for the thrill of backcountry exploration, people who climb trees for a living and people who climb ice for fun, even though they're completely aware of the "screaming barfies" they may feel when they finish.

This issue of Klipsun tells the tale of the man who helped us discover Earth through a photo, and why owning solar panels in a state known for rain isn't a terrible idea.

People stronger than I, the 15-year-old kid sweating bullets as the airplane banked in a circle around the runway to land. Clutching my stiff armrest and with my body pressed into the uncomfortable padding of my seat, I was almost ready to take my chances with a parachute.

Soon enough, I would be walking through the airport thinking about nothing but roller coasters and Splash Mountain, and my fear of falling from the sky would be far behind me.

When you read these stories, I encourage you to see the world through the eyes and lenses of the men and women who aren't afraid to fall, and who see heights, both literal and figurative, as inspiration. I know I have learned a thing or two from these people already.

Branden Griffith
Editor-in-Chief

KLIPSUN

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On the cover:
Harrison Mills stands on the top of Winchester Mountain in the North Cascades, overlooking the cloud filled valley.

Photo by ***Sam Shapiro***

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16 ON ICE

Experiencing the ultimate thrill sport

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preparing for the worst on the slopes

story by patrick downing

Accelerating down the slope on his snowboard, Phil, who requests his last name to be omitted, carves through fresh powder on a snow-covered ridge in the Mount Baker backcountry. Just beneath the surface, dense snow and ice lay waiting for the unsuspecting adventurer. Before Phil can react, a cascade of white fury envelops him.

He loses control of his snowboard under the surge and tumbles head-over-heels down the mountainside. He blacks out. When he regains consciousness, Phil is encased in a frozen cocoon, trapped and unable to move.

With little precious oxygen, his life now depends on backcountry partner Randy Holt to rescue him in time. Holt must dig him free from the hard-packed snow to avoid suffocation. Even with 10 years of experience, Phil has experienced being caught in an avalanche.

This is the backcountry wilderness. Here, adventurers explore at their own risk, with red emblazoned signs standing watch at the edge of a vast frozen landscape — warning in boldface, "Rescue may not be possible."

With nothing more than a collapsible shovel, a probe and a beacon called a transceiver, skiers and snowboarders rely on their wit and the support of a partner to return home after exploring the North Cascades.

The dangers of the backcountry are the same reason why skiers and snowboarders venture beyond the ski area — the freedom to explore the mountain's untouched landscape. It's been nearly seven years since the last avalanche-related death at Mount Baker. But with three deaths from last February's avalanche at Steven's Pass, it's a risk enthusiasts like Phil acknowledge every time they explore the backcountry, he says.

Phil, 25, has been snowboarding since he was 8. He has been an instructor at two Pacific Northwest ski resorts. He's a conscientious thrill-seeker, living for the experience of fresh powder and the unparalleled scenic beauty of the backcountry. Even with years of experience and training, Phil is not immune to the dangers present within the backcountry.

An avalanche occurs when a mass of snow or ice falling rapidly descends a mountainside, according to The Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center. The website emphasizes that avalanches do not happen randomly, and most human involvement is a matter of choice, not chance.

Most avalanches are known as slabs, which are triggered by someone exploring the backcountry. Any type avalanche may cause injury or death, even small slides can be dangerous.

According to NWAC's site, enthusiasts must learn to evaluate snow stability to minimize personal risk when in the backcountry. No matter the current avalanche danger, there are avalanche-safe areas in the mountains. Ultimately, education is key to avoiding avalanches.

On that cold, clear morning three winters ago, Phil hiked from the upper lot of the Mt. Baker Ski Area. That day, he and Holt were snowboarding in the backcountry just beyond the park.

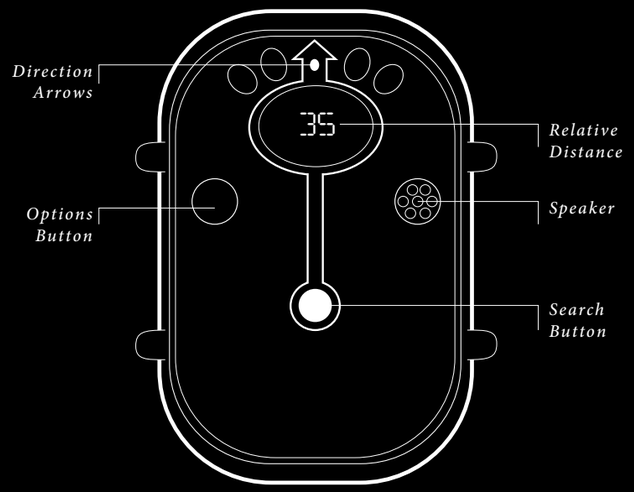
Phil was a few minutes ahead of Holt when the avalanche seized him. Holt saw signs of shifted snowpack and quickly realized something had happened. He pulled out his transceiver and quickly found his partner's location. Phil said he eventually heard Holt's footsteps directly above his head and he had never been happier.

Phil was buried more than five feet beneath the slope's surface. Trapped in his icy tomb, minutes became an eternity. After 10 minutes of digging, a gray face surfaced. An exhausted Holt, elated by his partner's survival, caught his breath after frantic digging.

Though wary for the rest of the day, the two continued with their backcountry adventure. Phil was thankful to be alive.

Below: *Snow covering Mount Ann (left) and Mount Baker (right) shines in the sun before Louie Dawson and Zachary Winters ski down the Mount Ann Coulior behind the scene during a high pressure system in early January that provided safe backcountry conditions and good quality snow.*

"phil was buried more than five feet beneath the slope's surface. trapped in his icy tomb, minutes became an eternity."



Infographic by Adam Bussinng

Infographic: *The illustration above labels the components of an avalanche transceiver, which is used to locate people and equipment burried under snow.*
Source: *pistehors.com*

Like Phil, Dawson acknowledges the risks involved with avalanches. In the last few years, he has been in two. The most serious avalanche happened two years ago when he was climbing Mount Larrabee, a peak within the Mount Baker wilderness, he says.

Dawson was caught in a slab-avalanche — where a layer of snow accelerates down the mountainside. Fortunately for Dawson, the avalanche was small-scale. He was able to steer to safety — cutting through the advancing snow and avoiding the cliff at the bottom of the slope. Dawson credits adequate training for his ability to maneuver safely through the backcountry.

Mt. Baker's Mountain Education Center offers one and two-day snow safety class based on scenarios focusing specifically on Mount Baker backcountry's weather and terrain, director Jeff Hambelton says. The courses feature both classroom and field exercises in backcountry safety, decision-making and transceiver-based rescue techniques, Hambelton says.

Western's Outdoor Center also offers backcountry classes throughout the winter taught by the American Alpine Institute. The three-day course is more in-depth and is strongly advised for enthusiasts.

Mt. Baker Ski Patrol is responsible for rescues within the ski area. They require anyone leaving the ski area and venturing into the backcountry to bring a collapsible shovel and a transceiver with them, says Sam Llobet, director of the Mt. Baker Ski Patrol.

Enthusiasts must also enter the backcountry with a partner. Probes that extend anywhere from 260 to 300 centimeters are also suggested. It's used to help find victims in deep snow after an avalanche. The first step in beginning any backcountry journey is to take an avalanche training course, Llobet says.

Western junior Louie Dawson has been skiing since he was 2 years old. Raised in a family of ski fanatics, Dawson has been exploring backcountry since he was 6.

Dawson spends every weekend exploring mountains and traversing backcountry. He sometimes wakes up early enough to be on the road by 3 a.m.

Part of the backcountry experience is hiking in the mountains, sometimes taking hours, Dawson says. Though at Mount Baker, popular backcountry spots lie just beyond the park, such as Blueberry Chutes, Hemispheres and Shuksan Arm, he says.

"Getting out to the mountain in the early morning and watching the sun rise is part of the experience," he says. "Skiing down a slope takes minutes, so you need to enjoy being out there alone with your thoughts, convening with the mountain."

"The backcountry is such an awesome experience and should be shared and celebrated," Hambelton says. "Part of the experience is being a good judge of the risks involved and overcoming obstacles by creating good dialogue through teamwork."

A component of backcountry training is observing the signs and indicators of avalanches. The NWAC website is a resource where enthusiasts can check avalanche updates and assess the risk level at various mountains throughout the Cascades, including Mount Baker and Stevens Pass.

After the notorious avalanche at Tunnel Creek, Phil is especially aware of the threat of avalanches. A transceiver saved his life. He sees people enter Stevens' backcountry without the necessary gear. Not only are they risking their lives, but they're not acknowledging the lives lost at Tunnel Creek less than a year ago, he says.

"The required [backcountry] equipment is always important, but it's really a last resort," Dawson says. "You never want to be at the point where you need to use your transceiver, and understanding how to avoid the risk of an avalanche is really the most critical."

It's composure that keeps Dawson and enthusiasts like Phil calm under pressure while exploring the very cracks and crevices of the mountain's backcountry. They acknowledge the risks present at all times, and when the worst happens, the enthusiasts are prepared. K

CHARTING THE STARS K

A glimpse into the future

Story by **Monica Davidson**
Infographic by **Kinsey Davis**

In 2004, an astrologer told Nancy Canyon there would be some relationship transformations coming up in her life, according to her astrological chart. Soon enough, she got divorced and her nephew passed away.

Canyon became interested in astrology in the 1970s when an astrologer read her tarot cards and explained her astrological sign. From there, she taught herself about the subject by reading books on mysticism, astrology and extrasensory perception.

Canyon enjoys getting "check-ups" once a year from other astrologers, but has been practicing reading astrological charts on her own since the late 1980s.

Astrological charts are different from daily-newspaper horoscopes. They are intricate and complex, depicting when certain planets will move into certain houses. Twelve houses are on an astrological chart, each representing various themes such as love, physical health and work.

When a certain planet moves into a particular house, professional astrologers, such as Canyon, can learn about what may happen in someone's life, and may be able to make some predictions.

Canyon will craft a natal chart that shows where the stars, sun and planets were in the sky at the exact minute and location someone was born — this is called a hor scope.

Newspaper, magazine and online horoscopes are based on sun sign astrology, which takes into account where the sun was in the sky during a person's birth. It is more general and less detailed than a chart reading.

Laura Nalbandian, another professional astrologer, considers sun sign astrology entertainment. Nalbandian and Canyon work with natal charts because they are considered more precise.

Many of Canyon's clients ask her why something may be happening in their life, such as a rough financial time or troubles in a relationship. Many ask about money and love. Nalbandian receives clients who have a curiosity for chart readings and also has ongoing clients questioning specific happenings in their life.

"I like it when people realize the planets are influencing their lives, assisting them in transforming them. That everything is in right order," Canyon says.

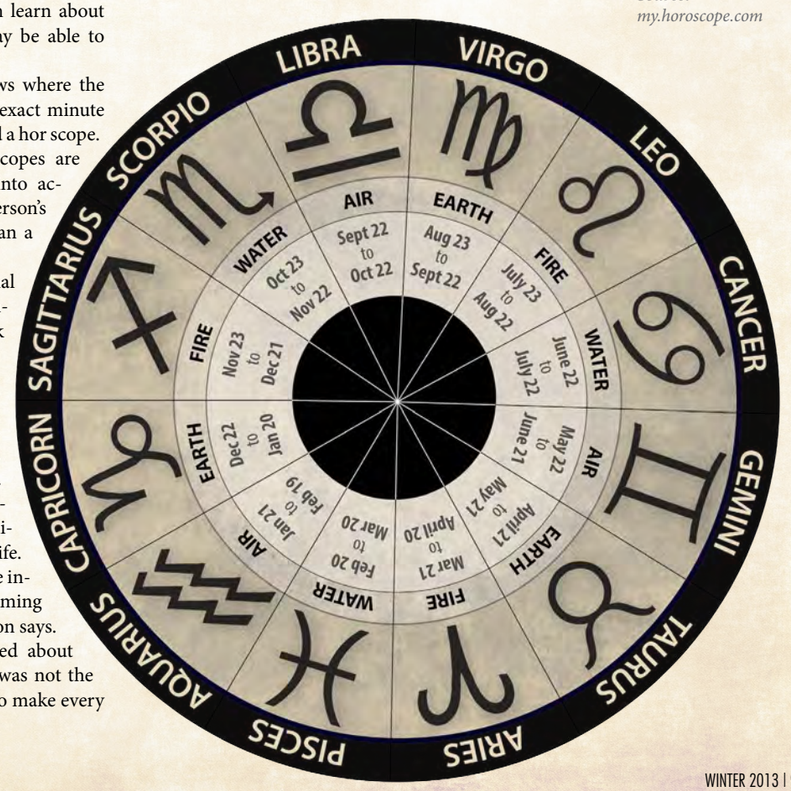
Nalbandian once had a client who talked about leaving her husband. Nalbandian told her it was not the right time in her life to leave him, and to try to make every effort to save their marriage.

When looking at her client's chart, it showed that the marriage has the possibility of working, she says. The transit of Venus, which is the planet associated with relationships, showed in the client's chart that her marriage had potential to survive. Nalbandian then looked her client's husband's chart and saw that he was scared of being abandoned and was using anger to convey his fear.

Transits change people's lives, according to astrology. The "first Saturn return," happens to people around age 28 and again at age 58-59. At these times, Saturn will return to the exact point in the sky when someone was born.

This means, for most people, that they will generally take their lives in a new direction and may have a new sense of authority, Canyon says.

"Some people say, "You believe in that stuff?" and I tell them that I watch what goes on in the stars and I see it play out all the time," Canyon says. K



Infographic: *The twelve astrological signs are represented by birth dates, and are associated with the four essential elements in the world.*
Source: *my.horoscope.com*

MIX MASTERS

DJs strive to spin a passion into a career

STORY BY **SUZANNE WHITE**
PHOTOS BY **BROOKE WARREN**

Lights silhouette Jeremy Maxfield of Storm and Trooper as he DJs at the Run Tha Trap show at Glow Nightclub.

In a dark bar on West Holly Street, a tall hooded figure takes the stage. He stares intently at his MacBook Pro and prepares for his set. Laser lights pulsate on canvases overhead and a beat builds up to an electrifying pace. The ice in the audience members' sweating drinks rattles as spectators bounce to the music and the disc jockey hypnotizes the room with his sound.

"Thank you! I'm DJ Radical Kid!" he shouts to the crowd as his last song pours through the speakers. He takes his bow and disappears into the depths of the Wild Buffalo House of Music, hoping to leave with a few more fans than when he set foot on stage.

By night, he embodies his DJ persona. By day, he is Western senior Spencer Bell.

Bell, 22, performs the music he creates. Becoming a household name is difficult when producing electronic and trap music, Bell says.

Trap music does not have a definition experts agree on. It is similar to dubstep music, which people are becoming more familiar with as electronic music hits major airwaves.

"A big thing that dubstep brought is the build/drop formula, so this new kind of trap music is using that formula, but it's using [rap] music that we recognize from junior high and high school — 13 years old, at your eighth grade dance all awkward," Bell says.

Adding familiar rap samples to electronic music makes it easier for audiences to connect with the music, Bell says.

What may be foreign to listeners is old news in the producing world. According to HouseLife TV, an electronic dance music blog run by experienced DJs and producers, trap music began with Texas hip-hop producer DJ Screw in the 1990s. Screw is credited with creating the "chopped and screwed" style of music. Once Screw's friends started rapping over his music, trap was born. Electro-house duo Flosstradamus brought today's electronic influence to trap with a trap remix in 2012 of Major Lazer's hit, "Original Don."

Fellow producer and Western alumnus Paco Mejino, 23, known as Ca$h Bandicoot, says introducing trap to the Bellingham music scene has not been an easy task.

Bell and Mejino aspire to make music, but the road to fame by producing trap music is going to be long and littered with criticism.

"Everyone's doing it. Everyone's a DJ; everyone's a producer," Bell says. "I wish it was true that the cream rises to the top and the best get noticed, but it's not. It's about who you know and how you link up with people."

Linking up is exactly what Bell and Mejino are doing. They contacted Ryan Greigg, known as Ryan I, cofounder of Blessed Coast Sound System. Greigg made a name for himself through DJing, artist booking, events, remixes and world tour management services.

Greigg, 31, knows better than anyone what it takes to achieve music stardom, because he already made the journey. He even started in the same place — Western.

While a student, Greigg joined the Western Sound System Federation, which brings musical acts to town. This group gave him the courage to get on stage, Greigg says. His DJ persona was born at Western, as were Bell's and Mejino's.

Greigg has only recently been able to make a living with music.

"There are lots of little things [we do] with music," fellow Blessed Coast artist Jordan Pinney-Johnson, known as DJ Triple Crown, says. "We're always collectively hustling."

Bell and Mejino are learning about the hustle. DJs do not get hourly pay. Bell says a DJ's portion of the night's earnings at a venue can depend on how much the door and bar make. DJs have to be assertive and ask for their cut.

"It's our life, it's our livelihood, it's how I feed my kid," Greigg says. "That's all I have to tell people these days — 'You want me to DJ? Cool, can my kid eat?'"

Bell is not at that point, but he does appreciate a paycheck, he says. He is more concerned about making connections that will further his audio-engineering career, like when he opened for artist Kraddy of Glitch Mob this January.

Having a love for music that outweighs a love making money it is the first step to rising to the top. Greigg used to manage what is now The Shakedown, and Pinney-Johnson was a chef. They created a Wednesday night reggae event at Boundary Bay Brewery. The two took their after-party to the Wild Buffalo, christening it "Wild Out Wednesday."

After that, Greigg and Pinney-Johnson got more attention for their music endeavors. As Bell and Mejino are realizing, it is easier to book a performance in a smaller town like Bellingham, but whether or not the audience will be receptive is up in the air.

"Being in a small town, people aren't on the cusp of what's going on musically in the rest of the world, so it's hard to introduce [music] that's on a new level," Pinney-Johnson says.

A talented DJ is willing to take risks no matter what the scene is like, Mejino says. Greigg and Pinney-Johnson agree; they encourage young artists to throw themselves in the spotlight, promote themselves shamelessly and make their own opportunities. K

> "It's about who you know and how you link up with people."

Left:
DJs cue music on their laptops at the Run Tha Trap show at Glow Nightclub.

Below:
Jordan Pinney-Johnson, aka DJ Triple Crown spins records at the Run Tha Trap show at Glow Nightclub on January 31st.

TAKEDOWNS, STRIKES AND SUBMISSIONS:

LIFE BEHIND THE GLOVES

STORY BY COLE FINCHEN

PHOTOS BY MINDON WIN

The gym stinks of sweat, and the high humidity intensifies the smell. The north wall is lined with framed 8-by-11-inch photographs of fighters celebrating their victories, hands thrust skyward by the referee. Space at the end of the row waits for photos of victories to come. Trainer Jeremy Saunders resets a digital timer mounted on the wall above the photos, and then returns to holding focus pads for a fighter throwing crisp striking combinations. This is Bellingham MMA, where coaches train local fighters to compete in the increasingly popular sport of mixed martial arts, which saw near failure and widespread prohibition before reshaping its image and rising as a popular combat sport.

Dark Days

A 415-pound man named Teila Tuli stepped into the Octagon to face the 6-foot-5-inch, 215-pound Gerard Gordeau. Twenty-five seconds later, Tuli was kicked in the face, sending his tooth flying into the audience and prompting the referee to stop the fight. This was the first fight in Ultimate Fighting Championship history, beginning the tumultuous rise of MMA.

Derided as "human cockfighting" by U.S. Sen. John McCain during the sport's infancy, MMA is a combination of wrestling, boxing, kickboxing, judo, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and submission grappling. A fighter must combine these skills to earn a knockout — when the referee decides fighters are not intelligently defending themselves from strikes. A submission happens when a fighter quits due to a submission hold, such as a choke, or a judge's decision if time expires.

The UFC, the largest MMA organization in the world, was initially successful and had steadily increasing Pay-Per-View buys during each event. However, the lack of rules and weight classes — allowing people of drastically different sizes to fight — led to it being banned in 36 states. In the late 1990s, UFC events were not offered on Pay-Per-View at all. Even though UFC management scrambled to add weight cases and guidelines, the nascent sport fell from the public eye only years after entering it.

Initially, competitors were implants from various disciplines, creating "boxer versus judoka" or "wrestler versus kickboxer" matchups.

"Back then it was pretty interesting because you'd see a 600-pound sumo guy against a 135-pound boxer," says trainer Charlie Pearson.

Saunders and Pearson both started as Tae Kwon Do practitioners, and together ran a Tae Kwon Do and weightlifting gym for about 10 years. Saunders, standing on the edge of the mat besides students, remembers participating in these "clash of styles" type bouts.

"In my second fight, I was facing a wrestler who had been knocked out in his last fight, so I thought I'd try to keep it standing and he'd try to take me down," Saunders says. When the fight started, I shot in [for a takedown] for some reason, and he knocked me out pretty bad."

Because the sport lacked a unified rule set, regulation was difficult. When people were able to organize exclusively MMA fights, they faced major obstacles.

"[UFC fighter] Dennis Hallman was putting on a show in Tacoma, and the state showed up and said you couldn't hit each other in the head at all," Saunders says. "They told him he couldn't take any money for the event. He actually had to refund a bunch of tickets."

The UFC was purchased by Zuffa in 2001, which worked to get MMA sanctioned in Nevada and back on to Pay-Per-View. They secured corporate sponsorships and larger venues, and paid for more advertising, beginning the sport's resurgence.

The Rise of MMA

The UFC created the reality television series "The Ultimate Fighter," in 2005, which helped bring the sport to the masses. It features fighters from small MMA organizations hoping to secure a spot in the UFC. All competitors live in one house together, leading to the arguments that are the hallmark of reality television. Perhaps the most famous example of this was when an intoxicated Chris Leben fell asleep outside of the house and was sprayed with a hose. Leben got angry, and broke a door and multiple windows.

"The Ultimate Fighter [season] five was what really got me into it, watching B.J. Penn and Jens Pulver. I got to see the inner workings of it," fighter Frank Pefferman says.

"BACK THEN IT WAS PRETTY INTERESTING BECAUSE YOU'D SEE A 600-POUND SUMO GUY AGAINST A 135-POUND BOXER."

Above: (left to right) Drew Oetgen and James Dunn test their sparring skills during a class at Bellingham MMA.

Below: Drew Oetgen pins Hunter Clagett during a grappling session at Bellingham MMA.

Above: Jeremy Saunders explains the fighting styles and history of mixed martial arts.

Pefferman is recovering from a broken arm he suffered in his last bout during the fifth round. He broke the arm attempting a "strike," in which the fighter throws a punch or kick and continues the motion a full 360 degrees, striking the opponent with the back of their fist. Instead, Pefferman struck his opponent with his arm, shattering his forearm.

The pool of fighters was once a mishmash of fighters from various martial arts, but now fighters are starting their training with MMA in mind, exemplified by a new breed of athletes that includes Rory MacDonald, who started fighting professionally when he was 16, and UFC Light Heavyweight Champion Jon Jones.

"I think we're getting into that now, fighters that have trained MMA since they were two, three, four, and they're just incredible," Saunders says.

"IT'S A HARDER SELL TO GET A DAD TO BRING HIS 8-YEAR-OLD TO MMA RATHER THAN A FOOTBALL GAME."

The Future

The MMA culture is more institutional than its roots. The sport, which once attracted spectators for its loose style, is now tightly regulated, especially at the amateur level.

"No elbows to the head, no knees to the head, no heel hooks. A lot of these guys aren't going to be professionals, and you don't want them getting hurt for no reason," says fighter Hunter Clagett, sporting a blond mohawk. Clagett, 27, is the trainer for the gym's weekly children's MMA sessions, and graduated from Western in 2009 with a degree in mathematics.

MMA is often perceived as aggressive and brutish, but competitors at Bellingham MMA disagree.

"There's no animosity between us beforehand, at least not for me," Clagett says. "For me it's about testing your skills."

In the early days the lack of separated weight classes made the sport appear illegitimate, but over time more weight classes have been introduced. Today, the UFC has eight separate weight classes.

"I walk around at 155-ish," says fighter and Western student Drew Oetgen, who fights in the 135-pound weight division. "A month out I cut out alcohol and fast food. The last week is really drastic, just enough food to keep me going. The last two days I do a drastic water cut." Water cuts consist of sweating out as much water weight as possible before a match.

While the sport grows more popular, amateur fighters will continue to cut weight or bulk up in drastic fashion in order to be prepared for their next match.

Gyms like Bellingham MMA will become home to more of these fighters, training and preparing to send them into the cage to have a referee raise their triumphant fist in the air. K

UPHILL BATTLE K

Cyclists climb to the top

Story by **Georgina Wadhwani-Napp**
Infographic by **Adam Bussing**

Two thin tires travel across the ground that rises like a wall under the aluminum bicycle frame. The chain clunks as the bike shifts down and the world slows. The pedals blur as they spin faster, and the bike battles the pull of gravity and ascends the hill

"When I see a hill, all I can think is 'crap,'" says Kristian Duft, Western Mountain Biking Club cofounder.

Duft started the club with Western sophomores Zach Cohen and Nick Turczyn. For these mountain bikers who say they enjoy the thrill of downhill, off-road biking, climbing hills on a bike is a means to an end.

"No one likes hills," says Duft. "That's a fact."

Robin Robertson, cycling instructor and co-owner of the Bellingham Tennis Club, is an exception.

Cyclists endure hard physical work and obstacles on their way up a hill. Robertson enjoys the challenge of a hill and encourages other cyclists to see it that way too.

Robertson helps cyclists train for hills they will come across while biking on or off the road. She advises not to look up at the top when approaching a hill. Focus on the pedal stroke and just look a little farther ahead, she says.

To climb a hill, a biker pedals fast but in a low gear so the bike is moving slowly, Duft says.

"It's a weird sensation going up a hill," Duft says. "You're pedaling fast but probably moving slower than you can run up it."

Robertson was a runner for Western's women's track and field team before she graduated in 1986. She took up biking after her second knee surgery at age 24, when her doctor told her she needed to quit high-impact sports if she wanted to still be walking at age 30.

Taking up cycling has slowed her down and shown her the world, she says.

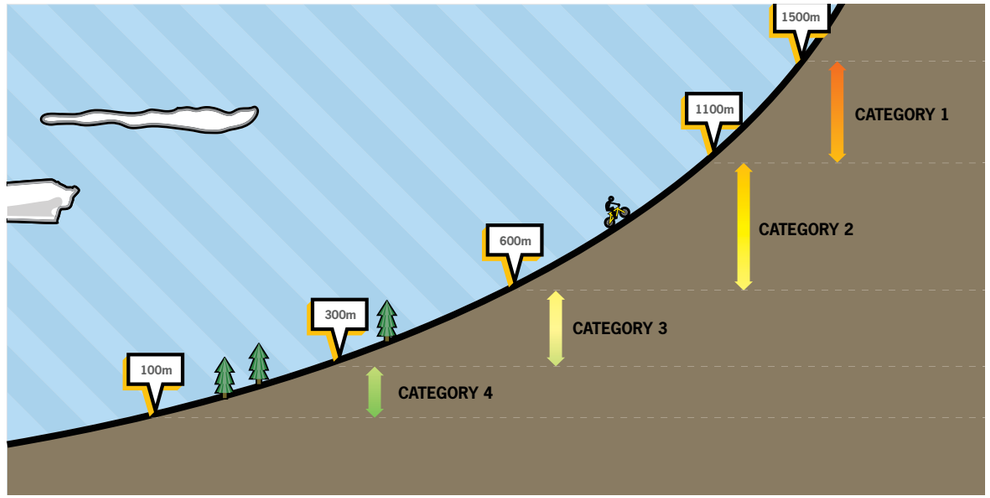
"It's a weird sensation going up a hill, you're pedaling fast but probably moving slower than you can run up it."

Before starting a family, Robertson and her husband biked across the world from New Zealand through Asia and Europe.

"[Cycling] gives you a great sense of freedom and adventure," Robertson says.

Duft says he is a thrill-seeker and tolerates the climb of mountain biking as he looks forward to the thrill of speeding back down a hill.

Riders know to shift down when they reach a bottom of a hill, because the only place to go is up. K



Infographic: *Cycling climbs are put into four categories, with category one being the most intense. Categories are determined by length, grade and maximum elevation of a climb.*
Source: *thecycleway.com*

ON ICE

Experiencing the ultimate thrill sport

Story by **Sam Shapiro** | Photos by **Brooke Warren**

BJ Cassell raises his ice tool to pierce a frozen waterfall at The Rambles, near Lillooet, B.C. as he sets an anchor for participants on Western's Outdoor Center's ice climbing excursion.

Above: The B.C. Mountaineering club, Western's Outdoor Center and other ice climbers face freezing temperatures to scramble the ice wall at Honeyman Falls in Lillooet, B.C.

BJ Cassell ascends a frozen waterfall, deep in the Canadian Rockies, without the safety of a harness or a rope. His feet are securely planted on the ice wall and one of his ice axes pierces into the side of the mountain.

Cassell swings his second axe at the mountain. The ice beneath his feet shatters. He is now dangling from a single ice axe. His one-handed grip is the only thing standing between him and an icy 30-foot drop.

With nowhere to put his feet, Cassell desperately swings his second axe repeatedly against the ice, hoping it will find ice thick enough to pierce. After minutes of dangling by one arm and no luck placing the axe, exhaustion begins to set in. Cassell is in trouble and there is nothing his climbing partner can do, he is too far away to help.

"When I make an error, I can learn from that experience. When you have a close call with rock fall or an avalanche, it's a much bigger force of nature that you have no control over."

"You can do it!" his friend shouts. "You're not going to fall. You can do this!"

Cassell's fear of falling is replaced by focus and determination to land his axe into the ice — his life depends on it.

The niche sport of ice climbing is the winter counterpart to the more common sport of rock climbing. Ice climbing requires dedication, patience, willingness to fight of cold temperatures and the ability to overcome staggering heights in dangerous surroundings. Being buried by avalanches or struck by ice or rock fall are a couple of the risks that come with ice climbing, Cassell says.

Ice climbing began in 1908 with the invention of crampons by British climber Oscar Eckenstein. Crampons are spikes climbers attach to their boots in order to have footholds while climbing.

The second essential ice climbing tool, the ice axe, was not invented until much later. Ice axes resemble coal-mining axes, but are smaller and made entirely of metal. Climbers swing their axes into the ice in order to pull themselves up while climbing. Climbers use equipment similar to the rock climbing essentials: ropes, harnesses, helmets and carabineers. A carabineer is a small metal loop with a spring gate, and is used to connect climbers, their ropes and their harnesses all safely together.

Ice climbing may seem like a dangerous sport that only "adrenaline junkies" take part in, avid ice climber Rikk Dunn says, but the gear used in climbing provides safety for those who take part.

"A lot of people regard ice climbing as something they can't do," Dunn says. "It's a mental thing in our society — we are not exposed to [ice climbing] so we have a perceived unattainability of it. Anyone can do this."

Both Cassell and Dunn are trip leaders for Western's Outdoor Center. They were avid rock climbers before they tried their hands at ice climbing. One winter, when the rock climbing season was over, Cassell and Dunn followed their friends on an ice climbing trip. It was love at first climb.

Although equipment has evolved to make the sport safer, ice climbing still has its risks.

"The things that shake me up are the things I have less control over," Cassell says. "When I make an error, I can learn from that experience. When you have a close call with rock fall or an avalanche, it's a much bigger force of nature that you have no control over," he says.

Balasubramanian Kumaravelu reaches high to pull himself up a route at Honeyman Falls in Lillooet, B.C. "It is very tiring," he says about ice climbing. "But mentally I find it very relaxing."

continued on page 20 >

Above: Cody Schotola-Schiewe coils a rope after three days of ice climbing in Lillooet, B.C. on an excursion with Western's Outdoor Center.

"Leading" is an example of the risks associated with ice climbing. The first climber up a route is called the lead climber, and is the most experienced in the group. Lead climbers have the daunting task of climbing a route without the safety of the rope above them, Cassell says. It is the lead climber's job to climb to the top of the route and securely tie the rope for the other climbers to attach to their harnesses. If the other climbers fall or need to rest, they can release their grip from the ice and be suspended in the air. Lead climbers cannot.

"When you are lead climbing, you don't want to fall," Cassell says. "Falls on ice are not fun, and are extremely dangerous."

In 1998, German-born Werner Grzimek was learning how to lead climb with an instructor in the Rockies near Bend, Ore. During his last lead climb of the day, Grzimek placed his axe into the ice. He didn't think his placement was great, he says, but he thought it would hold. He was tired. He went to place his second axe, and the chunk of ice where his first axe was broke off of the mountain and he began to free-fall.

Grzimek was only about 12 feet above an ice ledge protruding from the side of the mountain. He hit the ice ledge, and would have kept falling, but the spikes on one of his crampons stuck into the ice, shattering his tibia and fibula into fourteen pieces. Grzimek was stuck, and the only thing holding him onto the ice was his fractured leg.

Potential injuries that can occur while ice climbing are made worse by the location of most routes. In Grzimek's case, he was deep in the Rockies and the temperature was 10 degrees below zero and dropping.

When a climber is unable to get back to the car by his own strength, it becomes the responsibility of other people around to figure out a safe way to transport the injured person, Cassel says. If someone is injured deep in the backcountry, it is going to be a complicated, time consuming and risky situation to get him or her out, Cassell says.

Grzimek's instructor helped him down to a safe position, and then went down the mountain as fast as he could in hopes of flagging down a car. There were few cars driving on the highway, but eventually he got one to stop. The instructor told the driver to go straight to the nearest telephone and get Search and Rescue to the location.

At that time of year, the sun set around 5 p.m., and to be stuck in the dark would have been dangerous, Grzimek says. He had been waiting in the cold for more than an hour.

"I was starting to get hypothermic, and it was 4 p.m.," Grzimek says. "Then I heard the helicopter and man, I was really happy!"

Ice climbers traverse up an ice wall in a cold climate while reaching their arms above their heads to dig their axes into the ice and pull them up. Halfway through the ascent, climbers begin to lose feeling in their hands and arms due to the loss of blood flow. Even after feeling is lost climbers must hold onto their ice tools with every ounce of strength they have. It is not until a climber gets to a place of rest or finishes a route when the blood flow starts to circulate through the arms and hands again. The sensation is excruciatingly painful. The pain is so intense that the climber becomes nauseous, almost to the point where they want to vomit, Dunn says. Climbers want to scream from the pain and vomit from the nausea. This phenomenon is known as the "screaming barfies," Dunn says.

"Only in ice climbing do you electively do something that is seemingly so brutal to yourself and yet have fun," Cassell says.

In ice climbing you should not take unnecessary risks, Cassell says.

"There are old climbers and there are bold climbers, but there are no old bold climbers," Cassell says. K

▶ *Visit **klipsunmagazine.com** for a multimedia piece on ice climbing.*

BAD VIBRATIONS

When you can't escape the noisy neighbors

Story by **Elizabeth Midgorden**
Infographic by **Julien Guay-Binion**

A party happens almost every night at Rachel Howland's apartment, but for Howland and her roommate Kathryn Schultz, the party, its guests and the noise are not always welcome.

When Howland, a recent Western alumna, moved into her apartment above The Shakedown, a bar and concert venue in downtown Bellingham six months ago, she spent her first night sleeping on the floor alongside her mother, who had travelled from Arizona to help her daughter unpack. They were about to fall asleep when the humming of music crept through the floorboards.

Suddenly classic 1990s teen stars Britney Spears and *NSync were belting out songs about love and heartbreak. Howland's mother asked her if she could hear the noise, and she got her answer when Howland started singing along, but before she was finished, her mother told her to go to sleep.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, unwanted noise or disturbing sound — no matter if it's a Britney Spears song or a train barreling through town — is considered noise pollution.

Studies by the EPA show a link between noise pollution and overall well-being. Health problems related to noise pollution include high blood pressure, hearing loss, speech interference and sleep disruption.

Living above a bar or music venue will not permanently damage a person's hearing, but exposure to loud noise could result in temporary damage, Pamela Spencer, a licensed audiologist in Bellingham, says.

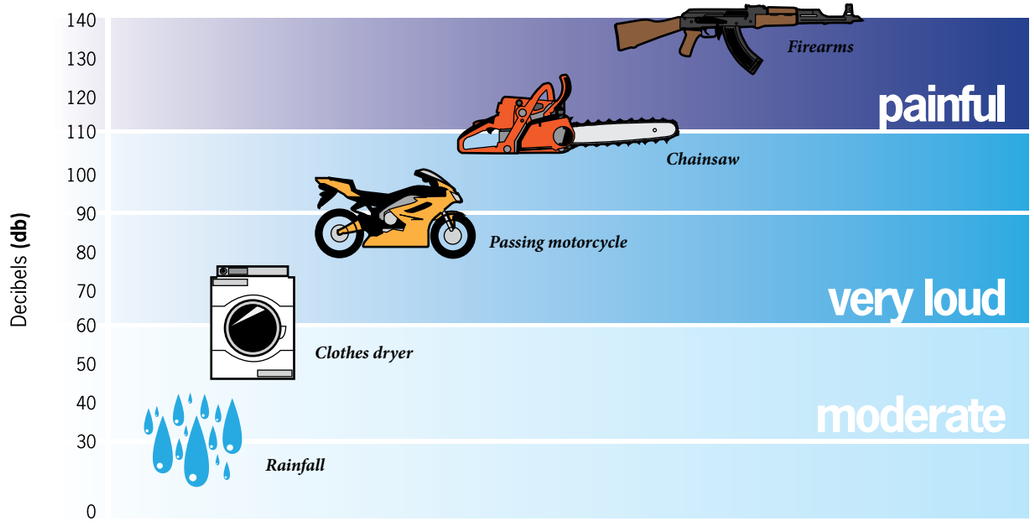
According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the ear can handle 85 decibels of sound, which is comparable to busy city traffic, for eight hours without causing damage. When noise is raised to 90 decibels, the ear can only handle the sound for four hours,

"Living above a bar or music venue will not permanently damage a person's hearing, but exposure to loud noise could result in temporary damage."

Most concerts are between 90 and 140 decibels, and when someone is there for two hours, there can be temporary damage to hearing. When this happens, the stereo cilia, which are similar hair cells, in the cochlea are knocked down from the force of the sound, causing ringing and temporary damage to hearing until they return to their previous state, Spencer says.

For the first two weeks of living in their apartment, Schultz says she complained about the booming noise from downstairs, but after six months, Shultz and Howland do not notice significant damage to their hearing.

However, Howland and Schultz are prepared, keeping a jar full of earplugs in their apartment just in case. K



***Infographic:** The chart to the left lists average decibel levels for everyday sounds around you.*
***Source:** hearos.com*

WASHED UP

Repurposing material from the rising tides

Story and photos by ***Billie Weller***

Tumbling in the waves of Bellingham Bay, sodden wood veiled with seaweed crashes onto the pebbly shore of Locust Beach. The tides sink, revealing the driftwood and other beach treasures. During low tide Steve Satushek emerges from his property on the shore to gather the washed up debris before they are swallowed back into the bay.

Using the repurposed material found on the beach, Steve Satushek and his wife Laurie have transformed their eight-acre, nondescript ranch house into a colorful residence complete with a garden filled with repurposed art installations and a hut down by the beach.

The Satushek's have opened up both their garden and the Jungle Hut to the community, offering their residence as a creative inspiration by inventing new ideas of incorporating art into the outdoors.

The Garden

Surrounded by rich vegetation and vibrant flora, two blue pillars holding a wooden panel decorated with the word "imagine" mark the entrance to the Satushek's whimsical garden.

The peaceful sound of a pond dancing beneath the weight of two small waterfalls echo off a mosaic wall, carefully crafted with various blue stones to portray a night sky.

The back of the garden is complete with a maze of giant shrubs embellished with glass flowers, blue bottles, oversized photography, wood hangings and pipe installations.

"The Satusheks saw their outdoors as an opportunity to beautify it. Their use of repurposed and salvaged material is unique and something you wouldn't expect to see in your average yard," President of the Garden Writers Association Debra Prinzing says.

When the Satusheks first moved into their house on Marine Drive, their land resembled most large properties on Bellingham Bay; their yard was one massive meadow.

After joining the Bellingham Horticulture Society and touring other local gardens, the Satusheks began thinking of new ways to transform their property. Their yard was a blank canvas and the opportunities for creativity were endless.

"We wanted to take ordinary things like a garden and make it extraordinary," Laurie Satushek says. "By creating art and hanging photography outside you can extend your living space outside of your house and have your own outdoor rooms."

Ten years after the Satshueks first moved in, their garden is now complete with a Mediterranean-themed entry, a woodlands area, a butterfly room and a colorfully painted sunflower shed.

Prinzing, who speaks at garden organizations, says she still uses photographs of Satushek Garden in her lectures. She loves telling their story and hopes to inspire her audience to change the way they look at ordinary objects and recycled material.

The Jungle Hut

At the end of the garden, a flight of steep wooden steps leads to a mysterious door that reveals a forest of bamboo, running water and trees ornamented with buoys, scrap metal and other beach debris. A small sign embroidered with colorful rocks that spell out "The Jungle Hut," is the only indicator letting visitors know they have stumbled upon the infamous wooden hut on the coast of Bellingham Bay.

Using driftwood and other sturdy material, Steve Satushek began building the Jungle Hut nine years ago. Along with the hut, he also built ponds, wooden pathways and strung material he gathered from the beach between trees.

Steve Satushek originally created the Jungle Hut as a place to meditate and sleep at night. He enjoyed waking up to the sounds of waves crashing on the beach accompanied by birdsong.

Located on a popular beach on Bellingham Bay, it didn't take long for Steve Satushek's private sanctuary to be discovered by beach goers. This didn't bother him. He says he made the Jungle Hut with the intention of it being discovered.

"I like the idea of serendipity, I like adventurous people. The people who show up here have left the party scene," Steve Satushek says. "The Jungle Hut is not a party place, it's a place of pausing and respecting nature."

Jarin Storrs, a 21-year-old senior at Western, says she had an encounter with Steve Satushek during one of her visits to the Jungle Hut.

"Steve approached us and was welcoming. He said he was appreciative of us using what he created." Storrs says. "I respect who Steve is as person and the fact that he built the Jungle Hut by turning beach debris into something meaningful is really inspiring."

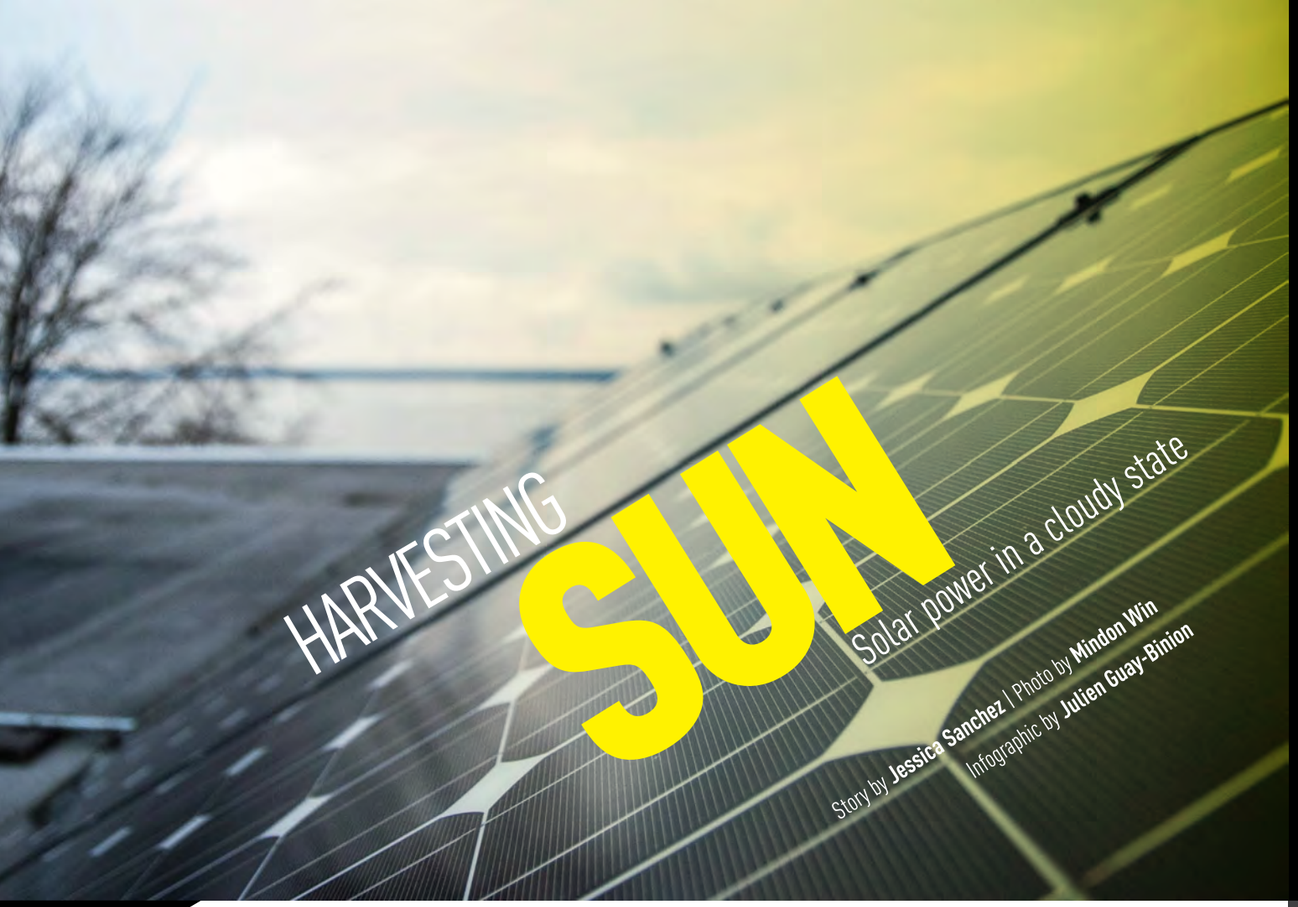
Steve Satushek has welcomed locals by including a guest book inside the Jungle Hut, where he encourages visitors to sign their name or contribute to the art throughout the area. His newest art installation surrounding the hut is an unfinished spiral brick wall.

Satushek Garden was featured in the Whatcom Horticulture Society's Annual Tour of Private Gardens, but the Jungle Hut wasn't included on the tour. Instead, the Satushek's have asked that the Jungle Hut's location remain a secret and a surprise to beach walkers who stumble upon it.

"To create something that is completely out of the ordinary and to be surprised is the whole idea of art," Steve Satushek says. K

Above: *A small glimpse at the Mediterranean-themed entry way equipped with a mosaic wall and a waterfall shows the Satushek's first creative experiment.*

Left: *A miniature glass bottle dangles from a tree branch in the Jungle Hut, located in a secret spot on the coast of Bellingham Bay. Visitors have also strung buoys, metals and other beach treasures found around the area to contribute to the creation that Steve Satushek originally built in 2004.*



HARVESTING SUN

Solar power in a cloudy state

Story by **Jessica Sanchez** | Photo by **Mindon Win**
Infographic by **Julien Guay-Binion**

Above: Solar panels deployed to the roof of the Viking Union overlook Bellingham Bay.

The sky is painted a soft purple-blue, revealing the rigid black outlines of the mountains. As the sun's golden rays begin to peak from behind the mountains, the colors in the landscape start to change. The once-black mountains now turn a rich shade of forest green. The sky brightens, turning brilliant blue, dotted with white clouds.

But even before the earth begins to wake, the light of an early sunrise is already being put to use.

At the first sign of radiance, the protons that bounce around earth's atmosphere are being harnessed into usable energy by solar panels. In Washington, the cloudiest state, more residents are installing solar panels, according to the 2012 Solar Market Insight Report. The science of solar in a land of rain is emerging.

"It is an industry that is really ripe. There are a lot of people working on solar panels now because the cost has decreased," Sustainable Connections policy and energy manager Alex Ramel says.

How It Works

Washington receives about 74 percent of the same radiance as San Diego but in a more concentrated period of the year, April to September, Itek business manager Karl Unterschuetz says. Washington has very cool, long summer days allowing panels to produce a lot in the summer. Solar panels are more effective in cool weather because as temperatures rise, solar cell efficiency declines, Western chemistry professor David Patrick says.

Washington and Arizona have several differences between the types of light they receive on the ground. In Washington, the amount of energy that reaches the ground per day differs because the clouds absorb it. The light also differs in its spectral profile – its mix of color – because the light has been filtered through clouds. Clouds in Washington also effect the direction of sunlight. In Arizona, the light travels parallel and is direct, while in Washington the clouds scatter the light in different directions, Patrick says.

For example, Arizona gets twice the light we get in western Washington, but because of Arizona's heat, Washington gets about one-third less power production than Arizona, Unterschuetz says.

People do not realize that rainy and cloudy days lower solar panel production but does not mean there is none, Ramel says.

The Science

Solar panels are designed to allow consumers to collect the greatest amount of energy from their panel.
Solar panels start to produce energy at dawn and continue until dusk, but at about one-tenth of their normal production rate. Panels will produce voltage, but very little electric current, during periods of the day with limited light because they do not need a whole lot of radiance to actually turn on.

"Once the sun comes over the horizon solar panels production increases drastically," Itek business manager Karl Unterschuetz says.

Solar panels systems are connected to an electrical grid through an inverter. The inverter takes direct current (D.C.) turning it into alternating current (A.C.). A.C. is used in any situation where a person plugs in an electronic device to charge.

Panels can be set up to be either on-grid or off-grid. On-grid goes through an inverter that takes the takes the direct current produced by panels and puts it directly on to the grid. Off-grid charges the battery for the panel.
People who put panels up in the 1970s are still getting electricity off of them, Ramel says.

Cost-Effective, Even When Cloudy

Solar panels allow customers to save through programs and panels designed to fit their needs.

Puget Sound Energy, one of western Washington's energy services, has a net metering program that allows customers to credit the power they produce and do not use back on to the grid, pushing their meter backward. Washington Utilities is then required to credit the excess power to the customer's account.

In summer months, customers can use the net metering program to credit their account, and then pull from it in the less-productive winter months.

On the roof, the company can use the solar pathfinder to figure out if solar panels will work and how to design them.

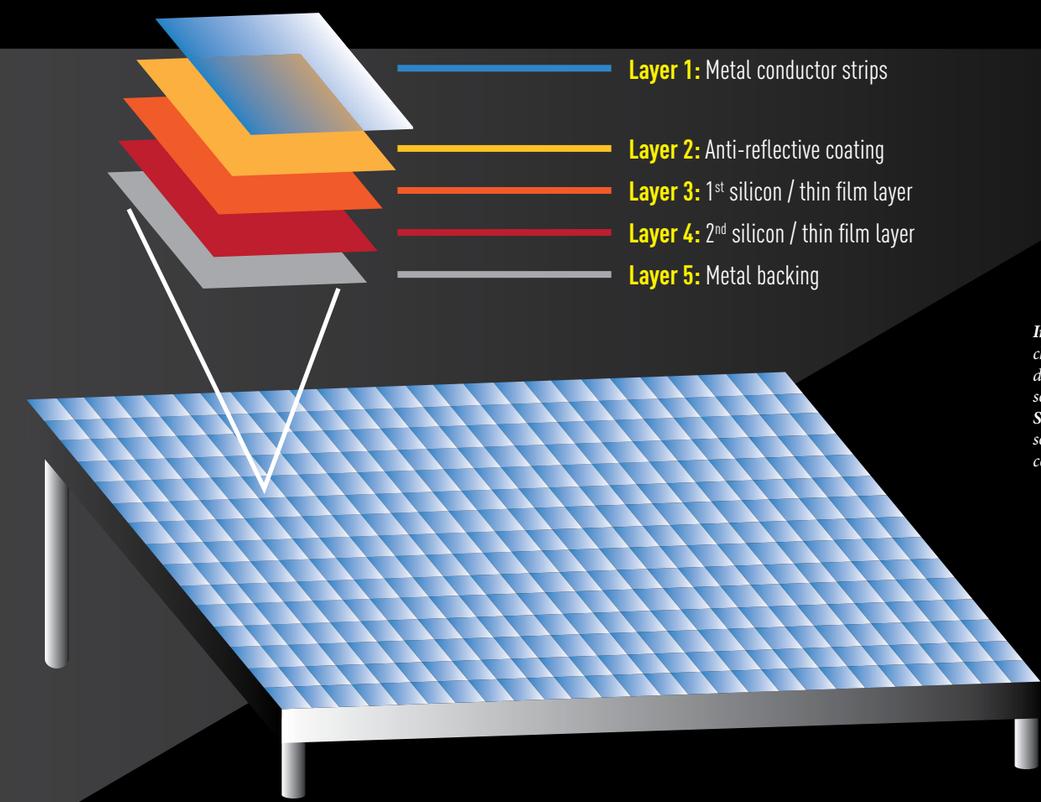
Solar pathfinder technology maximizes the amount of energy for the customer's dollar. The solar pathfinder can measure of the cost efficiency of a person's roof in any season, during any weather conditions. The device takes into account all potential surroundings, from trees to telephone poles to neighbor's houses. Its reading can then be tied into 30 years of weather data from a federal government website. After plugging in the data, the solar pathfinder computes a number that tells customers, within a five percent margin, the amount of solar energy they will receive in the next 30 years.

The company looks at the customer's total electric usage per year and designs a system to eliminate the customer's entire electric bill based on the available unshaded roof space and the customer's total daily consumption of use in kilowatt-hours, project manager Joshua Miller says.

Renewable energy costs more, about an additional 10 percent each month per kilowatt hour, PSE green power coordinator Burke Muldany says.

As long as electricity continues to have a cost associated with it and the sun continues to rise, solar panels will be effective in Washington, Ramel says. K

Anatomy of a Solar Cell



Infographic: *The chart to the left breaks down the layers of a solar cell.*
Source: *solarenergyfactsblog.com*

Story by **Samantha Heim**
Photos courtesy of **James Luce**

BRANCHING OUT

SCALING THE GIANTS OF THE NORTHWEST

Twenty-one years ago, during a sticky Idaho summer, a blazing wildfire began to dwindle. A parachute carrying supplies for firefighters below sank into the nearly charred forest. The parachute snagged a branch, and hung tauntingly on the branches of a ponderosa pine.

On the ground, Dave Stice and two companions stared up into the boughs. All three men were trained to climb trees for parachute retrieval. Unable to leave the supplies, they began to ascend the giant.

With only leather gloves, spurs on his feet and a single rope around his waist, Stice began to climb the tree, with its first branch sprouting at 60 feet in the air.

This was Stice's first tree climb.

Back on the ground after the climb, Stice was covered in bark dust and pine pitch — only adding to the animal smell he had developed after 20 days of fighting fires without bathing. After working almost 30-hour shifts, the 90-minute shower line at camp wasn't worth the wait, he says.

"I smelled like a horse," Stice says. "A lot work goes into getting that stinky."

Tree climbing can be enjoyed as a work-related task, a hobby or a competitive sport. All age groups can participate, but certified training is required before starting a tree work business.

Though Stice, 44, doesn't climb for work anymore, he works in Bellingham as a technical consultant at Wes Spur, the second biggest distributor of tree climbing gear in the United States. He also trains climbers with Ascension Group, a tree climbing training business in Bellingham. Most of his days involve answering questions about gear and assisting customers with any technical questions, but his favorite job is training.

Many arborists who engage in climbing as a profession will also compete in tree climbing competitions. Tree climbing competitions include five main events in competitions: throw line, aerial rescue, work climb, footlock and belayed-speed.

Each event is judged based on speed, but different tasks are completed while climbing, depending on the race.

The belayed speed climb starts with a climber at the foot of a tree between 40 and 60 feet tall. While sitting in a holster, climbers use a rope knotted around one of the highest branches to pull themselves up.

Inching upward, they switch from left hand to right hand along the length of the rope. Their feet act as stabilizers with the soles gripping against the trunk.

The climber can use branches as an advantage once they reach the branch level, climbing and jumping between them. The goal is to hit a bell placed near the top of the tree in the shortest amount of time.

The aerial rescue event — Stice's specialty — requires the climber to save a 120-pound dummy from a tree. Points are awarded based on the skill, efficiency and speed of the rescue.

One of Stice's favorite memories as a judge during a Masters' Challenge event in Portland, Ore. involved Katy Bigelow, a resident of Bainbridge Island, Wash.

"She was kicking ass," Stice says. "Then she got in a jam and was stuck upside down. But she got extra points from me because she didn't panic or freak out, and finished the tree."

Katy Bigelow laughs as she remembers the same moment.

"That was ridiculous," Bigelow says. "But my head had come that far in terms of keeping steady."

In a 20-30 minute time limit the competitors have to prepare their gear for climbing, which includes several yards of rope, a holster and several safety mechanisms. Once ready to safely climb, competitors must complete certain tasks, which measure their productivity and skill when working in a tree. After each task, they must ring a bell to signify completion, then climb down and strip the tree and themselves of their gear.

The first climbing competition in Bellingham took place three years ago at Elizabeth Park. James Luce, the City of Bellingham's arborist, who previously worked as the Puget Sound Tree Climbing Competition coordinator organized the event.

There is no written statute that forbids individuals to climb in city parks, says Marvin Harris, the Parks Operation Manager for the City of Bellingham.

"To encourage people to enjoy parks we build facilities such as pools and trails to encourage low risk activities," Harris says. "Trees by nature aren't a developed facility."

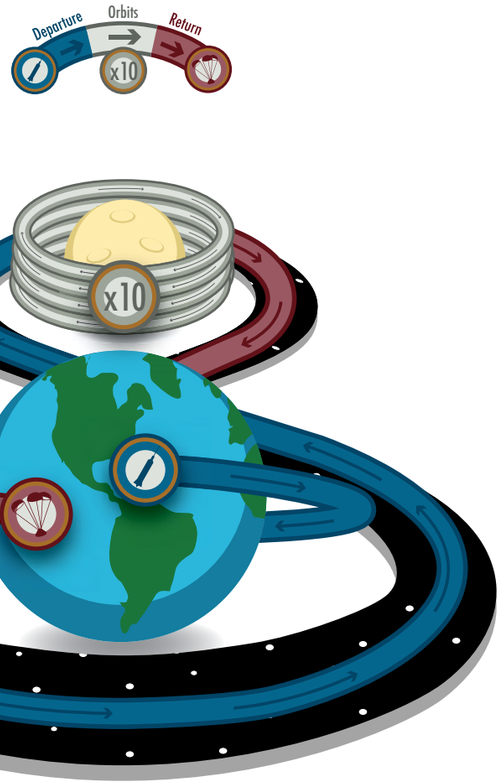
Over the years, the adrenaline rush of climbing a giant sycamore or Douglas fir has been inspiring new and old climbing enthusiasts. Stice says he believes tree climbing will raise interest among all age groups in the near future. K

Above: James Luce, the City of Bellingham's arborist, climbs an old growth Douglas Fir tree near the Nooksack river.

Left: Luce recreationally climbs a 245 foot Douglas Fir tree in Bellingham.

earth rise

rediscovering our home planet



Infographic: *The illustration shows the shuttle departure and flight path for Apollo 8, which launched Dec. 21, 1968.*

story by **Daniel Pickard**

Infographic by ***Adam Bussing***

On the morning of Dec. 21, 1968, Maj. Gen. William "Bill" Anders woke from a nap in the most unlikely of places. He and his fellow crew members, Jim Lovell and Frank Borman, were strapped into seats atop the 7 million-pound, 36-story Saturn V rocket and about to be launched into space.

Out the window to his right, only 13 inches wide, he could see a small bird slowly and meticulously building its nest, bringing material up from the ground far below.

"I thought, 'Mama you're going to be in for a big surprise here before long,'" Anders says.

In less than 20 minutes, Anders would establish a new world speed record of 25,000 mph or seven miles per second. He and the other crewmembers could have traveled from Bellingham to Seattle in 12 seconds. However, they were pointed at destination much farther than that: the moon.

As the countdown began in Anders' helmet, so did the first manned mission to Earth's celestial sidekick. This was the launch of Apollo 8, the result of immense preparation, months of training and over a decade of bitter international rivalry.

This mission would push mankind farther from Earth than ever before, capture a photo that would inspire a global environmental movement and demonstrate the United States' ideological and technological supremacy over its Cold War foe, the Soviet Union.

Racing toward the void

The "space race" had begun 11 years earlier on Oct. 4, 1957, when the Soviet Union launched the Sputnik 1 satellite into Earth's orbit.

The first people to see the Earth rise, Apollo 8 crew members (from left) Jim Lovell, Bill Anders and Frank Borman, stand beside the Apollo Mission Simulator at the Kennedy Space Center.

Above: On Christmas morning in 1968, Maj. Gen. Bill Anders took the first picture of Earth rising above the lunar horizon from the Apollo 8 spacecraft.

Sputnik, just larger than a beach ball, emitted "beep-beep" radio pulses and had a highly polished surface, ensuring it could be heard by amateur radio operators and seen by the naked eye from 175 miles below.

The reaction in the U.S. was one of astonishment and no small measure of fear. As a result, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established the following year.

Soon, the U.S. government was developing rockets, building satellites and hiring aviators to become astronauts.

"We would have never had Apollo if we didn't have the dirty commies, who turned out to be better guys than some of our allies," Anders says.

Anders was one of 5,000 military pilots who applied for a position with NASA, and one of only 14 to make the cut.

Prior to this, he had been a fighter pilot "chasing Russians over the North Sea." In his mind, the expanse of space between the earth and moon was a new frontier to fight the Russians.

"This was not an exploration program. A lot of people think so and NASA tries to make it sound like exploration," Anders says. "It was another battle in the Cold War. We were trying to show those dirty commies that democracy and free-enterprise was better."

The Right Stuff

At 79, Anders now spends most of the year at his home on Orcas Island, Wash., with his wife of 58 years, Valerie. He first fell in love with the Northwest as a boy when his father was stationed on a battleship moored at Bremerton's Naval Base.

"I swore to come back and eventually did," Anders says.

During his long career, Anders served on numerous government commissions, worked as ambassador to Norway and headed some of the largest companies in the world.

Throughout all of this, the love of flying has never faded. He even managed to pass it on.

Greg Anders, Bill Anders' son, runs Bellingham's Heritage Flight Museum, established by the Anders family in 1996. Having graduated as a fighter pilot from the United States Air Force Academy in 1985, Greg Anders still takes any opportunity to fly the Museums P-51 Mustang fighter plane, donated by his father and named "Val-Halla," after his mother.

One of Greg Anders' earliest memories is of his mother loading him and his siblings up in their brown station wagon and heading out to NASA's training field. His father would be flying the lunar landing training vehicle for only the second time.

As the mission's lunar module pilot, Bill Anders was required to train for the possibility of landing on the moon's surface, though he never got the opportunity.

"The biggest thing I've learned from my dad was how hard he worked to prepare himself on small fronts so that when the big fronts came along, it wasn't luck, it was preparation," Greg Anders says.

Standing with his mother, Greg Anders watched his father rise up in the air, hover and briefly move side to side.

"It was called the 'flying bedstead,'" Greg Anders says. "If you put a cockpit on the end of a brass bed and big old rocket motors on it, that's basically what it looked like."

At the time Greg Anders was more impressed with the immense noise erupting from the vehicle than with the slow, meticulous movements involved.

"It wasn't very exciting, just a lot of noise," Anders says. "Looking back it was probably one of the most interesting experiences of my childhood but I didn't understand the context of it at the time. When I was 6 years old I thought everyone's dad was an astronaut."

Traveling to the moon, discovering Earth

What Greg Anders remembers most about his father going to the moon is that it was the year they had three Christmases.

"There was one before he left, one on Christmas Day and one when he got back," Greg Anders says.

On that Christmas Eve in 1968, in the most watched televised broadcast at the time, Bill Anders and the other crewmembers of Apollo 8 took turns reading verses from the Book of Genesis while orbiting the moon.

While the world sat before black-and-white televisions, Bill Anders' voice was the first to come crackling through the 240,000 miles separating him from his family and the rest of humanity.

"We are now approaching lunar sunrise and, for all the people back on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message that we would like to send to you."

With this message beaming back across the void, the Apollo 8 shuttle moved from behind the moon. The astronauts on board became the first humans to ever witness the Earth rise.

On the three days it took for Apollo 8 to reach the moon, Anders had watched Earth become smaller than his outstretched fist.

Originally there had been no consideration in the flight plan to take photos of Earth, but Bill Anders says he decided to do so anyway.

The result was "Earthrise," an image of a tiny blue-white marble, lonely in an expanse of black, and dwarfed by the barren horizon of the moon in the foreground. This picture of the world highlighted its frailty, its delicate and singular nature, and is now credited with kick-starting the struggling environmental movement.

When Apollo 8 splashed down in the Northern Pacific Ocean on Dec. 27, they had traveled almost half a million miles. Looking back on the experience, Bill Anders is still surprised that after going to space to fight a cold war, he came back with a new appreciation of what was really at stake.

"I went on that flight to beat the Russians and I came back thinking the earth is really tiny," Anders says. "Though emotionally important to us, it is physically trivial. A dust mote floating in the universe and we ought to try to get along and quit fighting over who owns the dust mote." K

MULTIMEDIA

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Shredding off the slopes

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An up close look at baking

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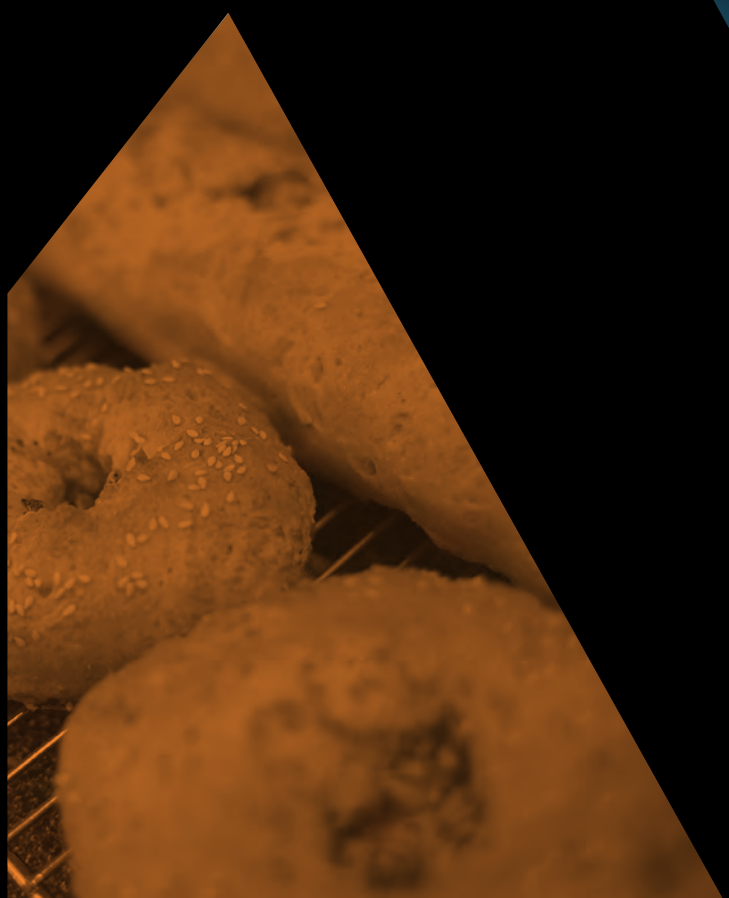

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Is a Chinuk Wawa word meaning sunset.

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